THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No separate statistics on the total amounts received from various private cable network organizations in the country are centrally maintained.

(b) to (e) The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act. 1995, contains provisions to regulate the operation of cable television networks in the country and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto. The cable operators are required to conform to the provisions of the said Act in their operations. There are no legal provisions in the said Act or the Rules framed thereunder to regulate the issue of earnings by a Cable Operator. However, the Tariff Orders issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time under the relevant provisions of TRAI Act would have impact on the overall earnings of the cable operators.

Vigilance Committee to Monitor Programmes

†526. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is a proposal to constitute a Vigilance Committee at district level for monitoring programmes being telecast on cable channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Vigilance Committees have also been given the right to punish the guilty persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) In order to strengthen the existing mechanism of regulation of TV content, the Government has issued an order requesting State Governments to constitute Monitoring Committees at State/district levels to look into violations of the Programme and Advertising Codes. All programmes transmitted/retransmitted through the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

cable network are required to adhere to these codes in accordance with Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Under Section 19 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, DM, SDM or Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified in the official gazette by the Central Government or State are the "Authorised Officers" to take action for violation of these Codes.

The Committee is to be headed by the District Magistrate/Police Commissioner and it comprises of SP, District Public Relation and Information Officer, Principal of local Women's College/Girls' School, academicians/psychologist/sociologist and representatives of NGOs working in the field of women's welfare etc. to be nominated by the DM. The term of the members is for two years. The Committee is expected to review and deliberate on complaints received by the Authorised Officer *(i.e.* DM/SDM/Commissioner of Police) or take *suo-moto* notice on violation of Programme and Advertising Codes in the programmes transmitted/retransmitted in the local cable channels and recommend to the Authorised Officer on the action to be taken.

Prasar Bharati Corporation

527. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prasar Bharati Corporation was constituted more than a decade ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said Corporation has not become economically independent despite making various efforts during the said period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Prasar Bharati was established with effect from 23.11.1997 under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990.